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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to clarify the core responsibilities of the Hawaii state energy office by:

(1) Expanding the duties of the Hawaii state energy office; and

(2) Transferring certain duties relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resilience, and clean transportation related incentives, programs, and goals from the chief energy officer to the Hawaii state energy office.

SECTION 2. Chapter 196, part V, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"[+]PART V.[+] HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE

[+]§196-71[+] Hawaii state energy office; established.

(a) There is established the Hawaii state energy office, which shall be a public body politic and an instrumentality and agency of the State. The office shall be placed within the department of business, economic development, and tourism for



1 administrative purposes, pursuant to section 26-35. The purpose  
2 of the Hawaii state energy office shall be to promote energy  
3 efficiency, renewable energy, energy resilience, and clean  
4 transportation [~~to help achieve a resilient clean energy~~  
5 ~~economy.~~], and to facilitate the achievement of a zero emissions  
6 clean economy.

7 (b) The Hawaii state energy office shall:

8 (1) Provide analysis and planning to actively develop and  
9 inform policies to achieve energy efficiency,  
10 renewable energy, energy resiliency, and clean  
11 transportation goals with the legislature, public  
12 utilities commission, state agencies, and other  
13 relevant stakeholders;

14 (2) [~~Lead efforts~~] Advocate for and recommend programs and  
15 provide technical assistance to incorporate energy  
16 efficiency, renewable energy, energy resiliency, and  
17 clean transportation to reduce costs and achieve clean  
18 energy, energy assurance, and energy resilience goals  
19 across all public facilities;

20 (3) Provide renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy  
21 resiliency, and clean transportation project



1 deployment facilitation to assist private sector  
2 project completion when aligned with state energy  
3 goals; ~~and~~]

4 (4) Engage the private sector to help lead efforts to  
5 achieve renewable energy and clean transportation  
6 goals through the Hawaii clean energy initiative[-];

7 (5) Formulate, analyze, recommend, and implement specific  
8 policies, strategies, and plans, in coordination with  
9 public and private sector stakeholders, to  
10 cost-effectively and equitably and expeditiously  
11 achieve the State's energy goals;

12 (6) Identify, track, and report key performance measures  
13 and milestones related to the State's energy and  
14 decarbonization goals;

15 (7) Provide technical assistance to state and county  
16 agencies to assess and implement projects and programs  
17 related to energy conservation and efficiency,  
18 renewable energy, clean transportation, energy  
19 resiliency, and related measures;

20 (8) Coordinate the State's energy programs with those of  
21 the federal government, other territory and state



governments, political subdivisions of the State,  
departments of the State, and governments of nations  
with interest in common energy resources;

(9) Identify market gaps and innovation opportunities,  
collaborate with stakeholders, and facilitate  
public-private partnerships to develop projects,  
programs, and tools to encourage private and public  
exploration, research, and development of energy  
resources, distributed energy resources, and data  
analytics that will support the State's energy and  
decarbonization goals;

(10) Create and review proposed state actions that may have  
a significant effect on the State's energy and  
decarbonization goals, report to the governor their  
effect on the energy program, and perform other  
services as may be required;

(11) Facilitate workforce development and the creation of  
jobs in the clean energy sector in coordination with  
relevant stakeholders in the public and private  
sectors;



- 1        (12) Evaluate, recommend, and participate in the  
2        development of incentives and programs that encourage  
3        the development of energy efficiency, renewable  
4        energy, energy resiliency, distributed energy  
5        resources, and clean transportation resources;
- 6        (13) Assess and evaluate the effectiveness and continued  
7        necessity of existing energy related incentives, tax  
8        credits, and programs, and provide recommendations and  
9        proposed changes;
- 10       (14) Develop and maintain a comprehensive and systematic  
11       quantitative and qualitative capacity to analyze the  
12       status of energy resources, systems, and markets, both  
13       in-state and in other states and countries,  
14       particularly in relation to the State's economy, and  
15       to recommend, develop proposals for, and assess the  
16       effectiveness of policy and regulatory decisions, and  
17       energy emergency planning;
- 18       (15) Develop and recommend programs for, and assist public  
19       agencies in the implementation of, energy assurance  
20       and energy resilience;



- 1        (16) Support the development, evaluation, revision, and  
2        adoption of energy-related codes and standards that  
3        advance the State's energy goals;
- 4        (17) Act as the State's energy data clearinghouse by  
5        identifying, collecting, compiling, analyzing,  
6        publishing, and, where possible, monetizing energy and  
7        clean transportation data and analyses;
- 8        (18) Advocate for the State's energy and decarbonization  
9        goals at relevant venues and departments, including  
10       but not limited to the public utilities commission,  
11       legislature, and division of consumer advocacy, to  
12       ensure that state energy policies and regulations  
13       align with the state strategic goals and are  
14       data-driven, and offer affordable energy to residents  
15       and businesses;
- 16       (19) Support economic development and innovation  
17       initiatives related to and resulting from the State's  
18       renewable energy and distributed energy resources  
19       experience, capabilities, and data analyses;



- 1        (20) Facilitate the efficient, expedited permitting of  
2        energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean  
3        transportation, and energy resiliency projects by:  
4        (A) Coordinating and aligning the state and county  
5        departments and agencies to support, expedite,  
6        and remove barriers to deployment of energy  
7        initiatives and projects; and  
8        (B) Identify and evaluate conflicting or onerous  
9        policies and rules that unreasonably impede  
10       project development and deployment and propose  
11       regulatory, legislative, administrative, or other  
12       solutions to applicable stakeholders;  
13       (21) Identify and recommend policies to align utility goals  
14       with those of ratepayers, including evaluating utility  
15       models that best support state energy goals;  
16       (22) Prepare and submit an annual report and other reports  
17       as may be requested to the governor and to the  
18       legislature;  
19       (23) Contract for services when required; and  
20       (24) Adopt rules, pursuant to chapter 91, for the  
21       administration of this part.



1 (c) The Hawaii state energy office shall be the State's  
2 primary government entity for supporting the clean energy  
3 initiative.

4 (d) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
5 each regular session, the Hawaii state energy office shall  
6 submit a report to the legislature that includes:

7 (1) A description of the activities of the Hawaii state  
8 energy office in response to the directives  
9 established pursuant to subsection (b) [~~and~~  
10 ~~section 196-72(d)~~], along with progress in meeting any  
11 of the Hawaii state energy office goals established in  
12 or pursuant to this part;

13 (2) Progress by the State in meeting its energy  
14 efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation  
15 goals; and

16 (3) Proposed legislation, if any.

17 **[+]§196-72[+]** **Chief energy officer of the Hawaii state**  
18 **energy office; duties.** (a) The Hawaii state energy office  
19 shall be led by the chief energy officer, who shall be nominated  
20 and, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, appointed





1 by the governor; provided that the term of the chief energy  
2 officer shall be coterminous with the term of the governor.

3 (b) The chief energy officer shall have:

4 (1) Experience, knowledge, and expertise in policy,  
5 programs, or services related to energy efficiency,  
6 renewable energy, clean transportation, and energy  
7 resiliency related activities and development; and

8 (2) Experience in a supervisory or administrative  
9 capacity.

10 (c) The chief energy officer shall hire staff necessary to  
11 carry out the purposes of this part. The chief energy officer  
12 and employees of the Hawaii state energy office shall be exempt  
13 from chapter 76 and shall not be considered civil service  
14 employees but shall be entitled to any employee benefit plan  
15 normally inuring to civil service employees.

16 ~~[(d) Subject to the approval of the governor, the chief~~  
17 ~~energy officer shall:~~

18 ~~(1) Formulate, analyze, recommend, and implement specific~~  
19 ~~policies, strategies, and plans, in coordination with~~  
20 ~~public and private sector stakeholders, to~~



~~cost-effectively and equitably achieve the State's  
energy goals;~~

~~(2) Identify, track, and report key performance measures  
and milestones related to the State's energy and  
decarbonization goals;~~

~~(3) Provide technical assistance to state and county  
agencies to assess and implement projects and programs  
related to energy conservation and efficiency,  
renewable energy, clean transportation, energy  
resiliency, and related measures;~~

~~(4) Coordinate the State's energy programs with those of  
the federal government, other territory and state  
governments, the political subdivisions of the State,  
departments of the State, and governments of nations  
with interest in common energy resources;~~

~~(5) Identify market gaps and innovation opportunities,  
collaborate with stakeholders, and facilitate  
public-private partnerships to develop projects,  
programs, and tools to encourage private and public  
exploration, research, and development of energy  
resources, distributed energy resources, and data~~



1 ~~analytics that will support the State's energy and~~  
2 ~~decarbonization goals;~~

3 ~~(6) Create and review proposed state actions that may have~~  
4 ~~a significant effect on the State's energy and~~  
5 ~~decarbonization goals, report to the governor their~~  
6 ~~effect on the energy program, and perform other~~  
7 ~~services as may be required;~~

8 ~~(7) Evaluate, recommend, and participate in the~~  
9 ~~development of incentives and programs that encourage~~  
10 ~~the development of energy efficiency, renewable~~  
11 ~~energy, energy resiliency, distributed energy~~  
12 ~~resources, and clean transportation resources;~~

13 ~~(8) Assess and evaluate the effectiveness and continued~~  
14 ~~necessity of existing energy related incentives, tax~~  
15 ~~credits, and programs, and provide recommendations and~~  
16 ~~proposed changes;~~

17 ~~(9) Develop and maintain a comprehensive and systematic~~  
18 ~~quantitative and qualitative capacity to analyze the~~  
19 ~~status of energy resources, systems, and markets, both~~  
20 ~~in-state and in other states and countries,~~  
21 ~~particularly in relation to the State's economy, and~~



1 ~~to recommend, develop proposals for, and assess the~~  
2 ~~effectiveness of policy and regulatory decisions, and~~  
3 ~~energy emergency planning;~~

4 ~~(10) Develop and recommend programs for, and assist public~~  
5 ~~agencies in the implementation of, energy assurance~~  
6 ~~and energy resilience;~~

7 ~~(11) Support the development, evaluation, revision, and~~  
8 ~~adoption of energy-related codes and standards that~~  
9 ~~advance the State's energy goals;~~

10 ~~(12) Act as the State's energy data clearinghouse by~~  
11 ~~identifying, collecting, compiling, analyzing,~~  
12 ~~publishing, and where possible, monetizing energy and~~  
13 ~~clean transportation data and analyses;~~

14 ~~(13) Advocate for the State's energy and decarbonization~~  
15 ~~goals at relevant venues and departments, including~~  
16 ~~but not limited to the public utilities commission,~~  
17 ~~legislature, and division of consumer advocacy, to~~  
18 ~~ensure that state energy policies and regulations~~  
19 ~~align with the state strategic goals and are~~  
20 ~~data-driven;~~



- ~~(14) Support economic development and innovation initiatives related to and resulting from the State's renewable energy and distributed energy resources experience, capabilities, and data analyses;~~
- ~~(15) Facilitate the efficient, expedited permitting of energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean transportation, and energy resiliency projects by:~~
- ~~(A) Coordinating and aligning state and county departments and agencies to support, expedite, and remove barriers to deployment of energy initiatives and projects; and~~
- ~~(B) Identify and evaluate conflicting or onerous policies and rules that unreasonably impede project development and deployment and propose regulatory, legislative, administrative, or other solutions to applicable stakeholders;~~
- ~~(16) Identify and recommend policies to align utility goals with those of ratepayers, including evaluating utility models that best support state energy goals;~~



~~(17) Prepare and submit an annual report and other reports  
as may be requested to the governor and to the  
legislature on the implementation of this part;  
(18) Contract for services when required for the  
implementation of this part; and  
(19) Adopt rules, pursuant to chapter 91, for the  
administration of this part.] "~~

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii State Energy Office; Duties

**Description:**

Expands the duties of the Hawaii State Energy Office. Transfers certain duties relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resilience, and clean transportation related incentives, programs, and goals from the Chief Energy Officer to the Hawaii State Energy Office. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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